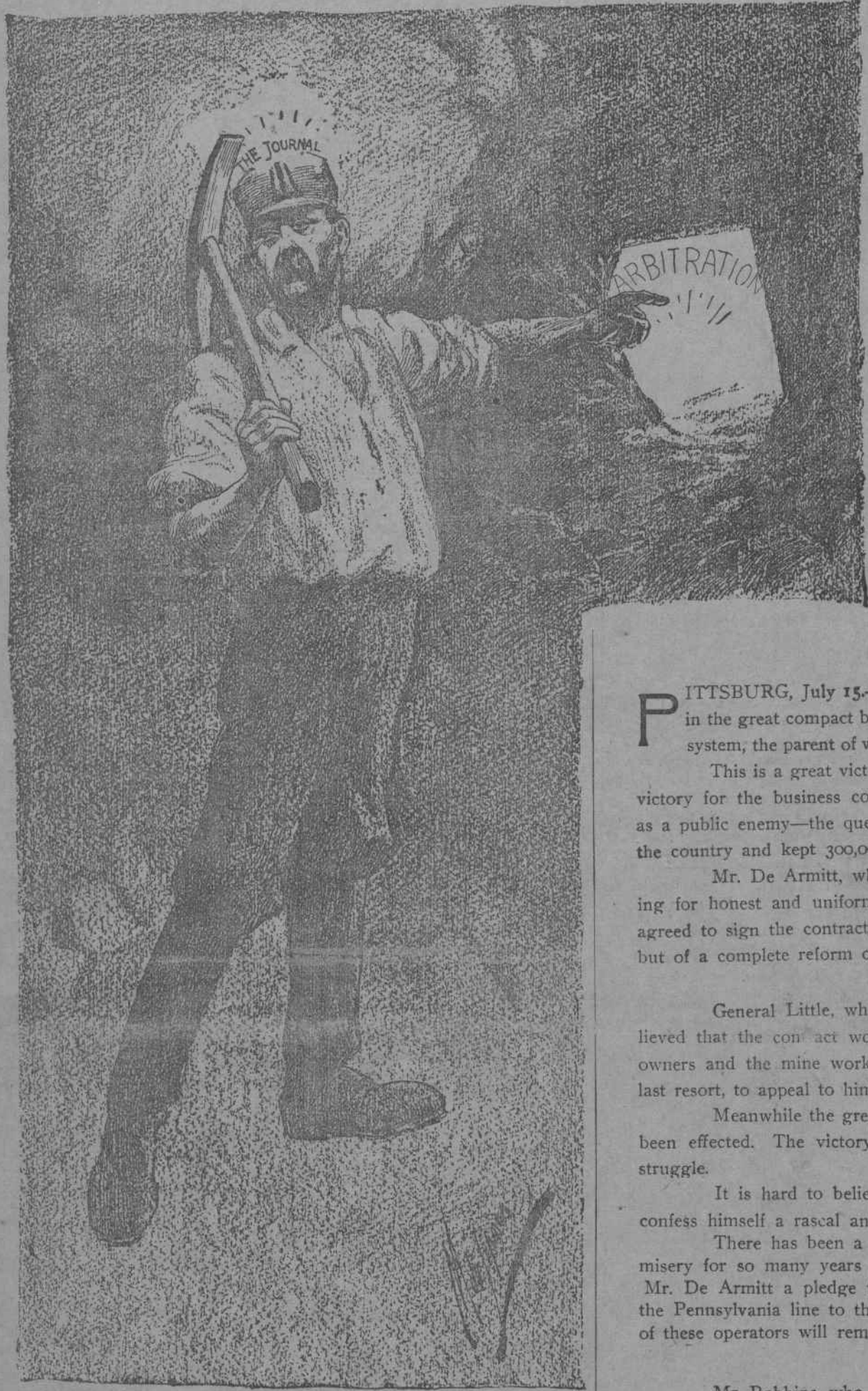


JOURNAL'S ARBITRATION PLAN IS ACCEPTED BY BOTH SIDES



To Be Incorporated in De Armit's Fair Dealing Compact Between Operators.

Once Abuses Are Abolished, the Next Step Will Be the Appeal to McKinley by Mine Owners and Workers.

Coal Diggers Rejoice Over the Prospect of Soon Returning to Their Work Under Vastly Improved Conditions.

WHAT THE SIGNING OF THE CONTRACT MEANS.

For 300,000 coal miners it means the end of false weights, cheating at the screens, and, above all, the abolition of the detested company stores and their extortion. Moreover, it means a fair rate of wages secured, as the Journal suggested, by arbitration, through a board of commissioners appointed by President McKinley.

By James Creelman.



James Creelman.

The Journal's special commissioner at Pittsburg.

PITTSBURG, July 15.—I am now permitted to announce that the Journal's plan for submitting the price of soft coal mining to arbitrators is to be incorporated in the great compact between the mine owners of the Pittsburg district, which will abolish forever false weights, cheating screens and the infamous company store system, the parent of white slavery in America.

This is a great victory for organized labor—perhaps the greatest victory that has ever been won in the long history of industrial oppression. It is also a victory for the business community in general. If the mine owners sign this contract—and the man who refuses to do so will be branded throughout the country as a public enemy—the question of mining wages will be fixed by fair arbitration, and the black methods which have upset the mining and other industries of the country and kept 300,000 men in misery and on the verge of revolt, will be stamped out at once.

Mr. De Armit, who has been the master of this great coal field, has agreed to accept the Journal's plan of arbitration as a part of the contract providing for honest and uniform methods of mining and cash payments to miners. Mr. Robbins, who is the leader of the opposition group of mine owners, has also agreed to sign the contract. The mine workers' officials who are directing the strike here are deeply stirred by the prospects not only of a settlement of the price, but of a complete reform of the conditions of mining and the emancipation of miners from a degrading condition of bondage.

An Appeal to President McKinley Is Now Urged.

General Little, who speaks for the commissioners of the five States who have been promoting a settlement of the strike, said to me to-night that he believed that the contract would be signed and that the arbitration would be permanently established as a principle and as a fact. He has to-day urged upon the mine owners and the mine workers that, as the Journal has secured the consent of President McKinley to consider the question of appointing arbitrators himself as a last resort, to appeal to him.

Meanwhile the great strike is spreading from State to State, and the miners are determined not to call a halt until a permanent and just settlement has been effected. The victory in Pittsburg will be a victory for the miners of the nation, for the price in Pittsburg controls the price in every State affected by the struggle.

It is hard to believe that any mine owner will dare to court infamy by refusing to consent to the uniformity contract and arbitration. Such a man would confess himself a rascal and a tyrant. Honesty, decency and patriotism are all working toward one end just now. The great strike has not been in vain.

There has been a systematic effort on the part of people who uphold the cheating system which has bound the miners and their families in want and misery for so many years to avoid this contract by charging Mr. De Armit with insincerity. But to-day the commissioners from the five States secured from Mr. De Armit a pledge that he would not only sign the contract himself, but would procure the signatures of two or three of the mine owners operating on the Pennsylvania line to the East, and would go with General Little himself to the other operators on that line and ask them also to consent. The signatures of these operators will remove the last pretence for inaction on the part of Mr. De Armit's competitors.

Share in the Honor for the Mine Workers.

Mr. Robbins, who speaks in a general way for the operators here, said that if the operators whose mines were located on the Pennsylvania road eastward should consent, there would be, he thought, little trouble in securing the required 90 per cent of the operators in the Pittsburg district. It is proposed not only to include arbitration in the contract for uniform and honest methods of mining, but to make the Mine Workers' Union a party to the contract.

Not one of all the mine owners I have talked to denies that the vast body of miners have been unable under the present system to earn enough to support themselves and their families. It is a supreme test of the good citizenship of American miners that these half-starved and half-enslaved victims of a cruel and dishonest system should never have for a moment resorted to any but peaceable means to secure their rights. They, too, with their leaders, must share with the owners in the honor of settling this miserable question for good.

This contract directly affects the lives of 300,000 miners and their families for what is done here in the Pittsburg district will settle the price everywhere. The struggle must go on and on, and on, blasting and blighting homes and industries, overwhelming and engulfing ever-increasing circles of interests, until disorder and anarchy are engendered, unless this contract is signed.

It is a fact which nobody can deny, and I have investigated the question on all sides, that the price of miners' wages cannot be fixed until dishonest methods are eliminated as elements of competition between the mine owners. An honest mine owner, who pays cash for every pound of coal the miner digs, cannot compete with a mine owner who gets a rebate of 25 per cent of the wages he pays by compelling his miners to deal at a company store, and who cheats the miner by false weights and false screening at the mine.

This contract, which is the basis upon which wages are to be fixed by arbitration can easily be enforced because it provides for a tax upon the output of each mine and a forfeiture of the tax in case any mine owner resorts to the practices forbidden by it. The system of inspection cannot be evaded. It is one of the most complete and comprehensive documents ever drawn up, covering every detail of weights and screens and methods.

There is some slight objection offered to the differential of 9 cents a ton, given by the contract to miners of thick veins as against miners of thin veins. But this is a matter that will be, no doubt, waived in the interest of peace.

One of the most powerful factors in procuring a quick agreement may be the Republican party. Everybody knows that hard times just now mean disaster to the Republican cause. All the leaders, from the President and Senator Hanna, down to the humble stoker in the party, recognize the gravity of the danger should this strike continue to spread and involve other industries and the great railway systems. It is in the power of the Republican leaders to hasten peace by using their power to persuade reluctant operators to sign the uniformity contract. The great bulk of the operators here are Republicans.

I do not mention this for the purpose of introducing politics as an element in the struggle, but simply intend to point out the great opportunity which the Republicans have to serve the country and themselves.

This Is the Time to Stir Up Operators.

It will take a day or two to complete the contract in all its details, and to adjust some of the personal differences which exist, but every man or woman who knows a coal operator in the Pittsburg district should send him a letter or telegram asking him in the name of patriotism, humanity, common sense and decent business methods to sign the contract and ask others to sign it. Many of the operators do not seem to realize the desperate conditions which are opening on all sides, the restlessness and discontent pervading the great body of workers in all lines of industry, the despair and hopelessness which are so often the precursors of violence.

I have been through many States and have seen ominous signs on all sides. For the first time I have had to write of a socialistic movement on a large scale among native born American workmen.

The signing of this contract and the adoption of arbitration as the only civilized method of settling disputes between employer and employee will be a step forward that history must take note of. Every agency that can be employed in any part of the country to bring pressure to bear upon the Pittsburg operators at this moment will be an agency for peace and prosperity.

If this effort should fail, the miners will be made desperate throughout the country, and no man can say where this gigantic conflict will end, or what other and more frightful disasters it may lead up to. No one can forget the powerful and heart-stirring pictures of misery and starvation which Alfred Henry Lewis telegraphed to the Journal from this district only a few days ago.

PITTSBURG, July 15.—President William P. De Armit, of the New York & Cleveland Gas Coal Company, speaking to-night of the mines necessary to be represented on the uniformity contract before it would be acceptable to him, mentioned several without the outskirts of what is now generally known as the Pittsburg district, and said: "It is my desire to have the owners of these mines subscribe to the contract, and I shall certainly do all in my power to bring this result about. Some of them I know I can bring in line. If the arbitrators, miners, other operators and myself, working jointly, are unable to induce the others to sign, I will be willing to eliminate them." This statement is of unusual significance. The mines named by him are the Lyons Run, Export, Westmoreland Gas, Pennsylvania Gas, Manor Shaft, Madison, Ocean and Redstone. They had no representation on the true uniformity contract when the effort was made to put it in force before, and because of this lack of representation President De Armit refused to agree that the required number of signers had been obtained. So the contract fell through. Horace R. Call and Edward Ridgley, members of the Illinois State Board of Arbitration, left for Illinois to-night to sound the alarm to the miners of that State. Colonel Rend and James Ellsworth upon the uniformity arbitration it will hardly meet with any success that quarter. While the press distrust of the motives in this matter is a serious matter, this city last night "What do you think?"

HEAVEN HELP UNCLE SAM NOW!

Sensational Story of a
Spanish-Japanese
Alliance.

FOR CUBA AND HAWAII.

Interference or Annexation
to Be the Signal
for War.

ATTACK ON BOTH COASTS.

Combination Will Open Hostilities
by Demonstrations Along
Atlantic and Pacific.

THEY HAVE HEARD OF IT IN PARIS

It Is Announced That a Call at the
American Legation in That City
Resulted in Finding a Basis
for the Rumor.

London, July 15.—A dispatch from Paris to a news agency here says that inquiry at the American Embassy there has elicited a confirmation of the rumor that the governments of Spain and Japan have arranged an offensive alliance against the United States.

The terms of the understanding, which is for the mutual protection of Cuba and Hawaii, provide that, in the event of an actively aggressive movement on the part of the United States tending toward inter-

ference in Cuban affairs or persistence in the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands, both Spain and Japan shall declare war simultaneously against the United States, and shall make hostile demonstrations along both the Atlantic and Pacific coast lines of that country.

WOULD SACK KEY WEST.

In a War with Us, Say Havana Spaniards, This Would Be Weyler's First Little Job.

By George Eugene Bryson.

(Copyright, 1897, by W. R. Hearst.) Havana, July 14, via Port Tampa, Fla., July 15.—Havana Spaniards are confident that diplomatic relations between Spain and the United States will be broken shortly after General Woodford, McKinley's new Minister, reaches Madrid. Many, indeed, believe that an open declaration of war would at least enable Spain to retire from Cuba with honor after a brief struggle with Americans.

War once declared, Weyler, it is intimated, would embark the bulk of his army upon the pretext that he purposed invading Florida. If able to effect a landing in Key West he would undoubtedly sack and burn the town and put every inhabitant—man, woman and child—to the sword, then evacuate the port and sail away to Spain.

La Lucha, in a significant article noting the unusual activity of Spanish arsenals, both at home and here, thus comments on possible hostilities with the United States. "Such a war, whatever its result, would be better for Spain than continued international strife. Foreign wars are either won or lost, and in the end, upon some solid basis, peace is restored. In civil wars, like that of Cuba, whatever compromise may result can be but a temporary truce, entirely lacking in assurances of lasting peace."

The feeling in local Spanish circles against General Lee is growing, and unless he soon be recalled some demonstration against the Consul-General may yet occur. At Sagua la Grande threats have been made against Consul Barker.